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17 December 2004

RUS43224.E

Russia: Situation for Jehovah's Witnesses in Smolensk since the Moscow court ruling in the Spring of 2004; whether any person was arrested, admitted to a psychiatric hospital or killed in Smolensk since 2002 because they were Jehovah's Witnesses and, if so, their names; whether any person was beaten in Smolensk since 2002 because they were a Jehovah's Witness (2002 - December 2004)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

In 16 December 2004 correspondence with the Research Directorate, the associate director of legal affairs for the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada indicated that his organisation was "unaware of any change in the general situation of Jehovah's Witnesses in [Smolensk] since the Moscow court ruling." The associate director also indicated that the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada was not aware of any incidents of arrest, admission to a psychiatric hospital or subjection to physical assault due to a person's affiliation with the Jehovah's Witnesses since 2002 (Watch Tower 16 Dec. 2004).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection.

Reference

Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada. 16 December 2004. Correspondence from the associate director of legal affairs.

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